

Message Text

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60

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CCO-00 CPR-02 L-03 SY-04 WRD-03

INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /054 W
----- 080633

R 081642Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8625

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ACOM, US, UR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH SOVIET DIPLOMATIC
COURIERS

1. DURING CALL ON OTHER MATTERS AT MFA MAY 8, ACTING
HEAD OF USA DIVISION, FEDOSEYEV, COMPLAINED THAT SOVIET
DIPLOMATIC COURIERS WERE ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN
TRAVELING FROM WASHINGTON TO SAN FRANCISCO. FEDOSEYEV
NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AS FAR AS TRIPS BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK WERE CONCERNED. HE ADDED THAT
IF DIFFICULTIES CONTINUE TO BE ENCOUNTERED, THEN
RECIPROCAL ACTION MIGHT BE EXPECTED WITH RESPECT TO
US COURIERS TRAVELING BETWEEN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD.

2. WHEN DCM ASKED ABOUT THE SPECIFICS OF THE COMPLAINT,
FEDOSEYEV ADDED THAT SOVIET COURIERS ARE ARMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET REGULATIONS AND THAT THEY ARE
NOT PERMITTED TO PERFORM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT
CARRYING ARMS. DCM REPLIED THAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES
RELATED TO HIJACKING WERE PROBABLY INVOLVED AND THAT, IN
ANY CASE, US AUTHORITIES WERE ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH
US REGULATIONS. SINCE US COURIERS IN THE SOVIET UNION
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DO NOT CARRY ARMS, DCM SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW THE

SITUATIONS WERE COMPARABLE. THEREFORE, THREAT OF POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH US COURIERS WAS TOTALLY UNWARRANTED. NEVERTHELESS, DCM SAID HE WOULD CONVEY CONCERN OF MFA TO DEPARTMENT.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF BACK-GROUND OF SOVIET COMPLAINT AND ANY EXPLANATIONS PRESUMABLY PROVIDED TO SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURIERS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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